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# Skookum

adj. rural slang

Definition: good, great,  
strong, big or brave

**University of B.C. professor updates dictionary of  
Canadianisms to mark nation's 150th** metroNEWS

HOMELESSNESS

**Walking a mile  
in the shoes of  
a street kid**

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A man with short brown hair and a mustache is smiling broadly, looking towards the camera. He is wearing a yellow life vest. Next to him is a large shark, its head and open mouth filled with sharp teeth, also looking towards the camera. They are underwater, with sunlight filtering through the water, creating a shimmering effect. The background shows the surface of the water with ripples and light reflections.

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# A night on the streets

POVERTY

## Fundraiser lets you experience being young and homeless



**Jen St. Denis**  
Metro | Vancouver

I used to go looking for green spaces," says James, a 20-year-old from Surrey who was recently homeless in Vancouver for six months.

"You tend to see a lot of people on city blocks, which is something I try to keep away from, because you tend to get in a bit more trouble when you're out there. But I've slept everywhere, from the Burrard Street Bridge to Crab Park to just all over Vancouver, just trying to stay safe."

On Thursday night, James and other young people will be sharing their experiences at a fundraiser for Directions Youth Services, an agency that runs a shelter for 19 to 24-year-olds on Burrard Street as well as offering services like counselling and a drop-in centre that is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The goal of the A Night in the Life event is to give participants a sense of what it's like to be a young person struggling with homelessness and how hard it can be to get off the street.

The event includes a role-playing exercise where the youth play social workers, police officers and employers. Fundraiser participants adopt the identity of a homeless youth, which might



**James, a 20-year-old who was homeless for six months in downtown Vancouver, with Callum Scott, director of Directions Youth Services.** JEN ST. DENIS/METRO

include having a mental illness, an addiction or a criminal record. They have 90 minutes to find shelter, food and employment.

"One of the things that was really impactful when we did this event last year was how frus-

trated the participants became at how difficult it is to navigate the system," said Callum Scott, director of Directions.

The event also includes a tour of Granville Street — Vancouver's "entertainment district,"

but also where many young people living on the street gather and sleep.

"They'll really get to see that area from the perspective of a homeless youth, seeing where the safe places to sleep are,

**"You don't see Granville the same way again."**  
Callum Scott

where they might be able to find some food, where to go to the bathroom," Scott said. "You don't see Granville the same way again."

James, who now has permanent housing and hopes to complete his high school equivalency, said the youth-focused services Directions offers were vital to helping him get off the street and deal with the mental health and addictions issues that led to him becoming homeless.

"If you go down to the Downtown Eastside, one of the things I've noticed is they don't have programs like Directions that cater towards youth," he said.

"So all those adults who have been out there for 25 years, there wasn't any place like Directions to give them another option besides the street."

Scott said there needs to be more acknowledgement from provincial and federal government that homeless youth need services directed specifically towards them.

"Even the way they define homelessness, by how long they've been homeless or how many times they've been homeless," Scott said. "For a youth who is 18 or 19, it's almost impossible to gain a federally funded service without forcing them to be homeless for a little while first."

CAMPAIGN

## Mayors want transit focus

Metro Vancouver mayors have launched a campaign aimed at putting transit at the centre of the upcoming election in British Columbia.

Members of the Mayors' Council on transit held a news conference outside a Surrey SkyTrain station on Wednesday, calling on the next B.C. government to invest more in transportation around Metro Vancouver.

Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson says the group appreciates recent federal and provincial investments of \$4.4 billion, but wants funding for its entire 10-year plan for transit improvements.

Those projects would range from HandyDART and other bus service improvements to upgrades for aging SkyTrain stations and a commitment to the replacement of the Pattullo Bridge between Surrey and New Westminster.

New Westminster Mayor Jonathan Cote pegs the bridge replacement at more than \$1 billion, with tolls covering half the cost, but he says the project would still be short by at least half a billion dollars.

The Mayors' Council is launching a website to raise the profile of transportation issues across Metro Vancouver and the campaign intends to identify the transit priorities of B.C.'s major political parties.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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# Update for Canuck dictionary

LANGUAGE

## Professor lists B.C. slang such as 'hyack' and 'skookum'



**David P. Ball**  
Metro | Vancouver

You could call it a "skookum," or great, discovery in Austria: a special sleeve-bound tome embossed with the crests of every Canadian province, buried in the reference stacks section of a Vienna University library.

What Austrian-born linguist Stefan Dollinger literally "stumbled upon" in 1999 was the 1967 Dictionary of Canadianisms on Historical Principles (DCHP), he told Metro, a meticulously researched tome of every known Canuck word.

Dollinger's chance find led him to the University of British Columbia's English Department — and eventually, to resurrecting a 50-year-old dictionary of uniquely Canuck vocabulary.

As Canada approached its 150th anniversary, the UBC

linguist was approached by the reference book's original publisher.

"I was worried about the daunting task but said yes anyway," he admitted in a Skype interview from Sweden. He enlisted undergraduate students in his courses to collect data, and in March released the dictionary's second edition online.

"The reception surprised me. Everyone seems to be excited about it. It's nice when you have solid evidence that what people do, have done for a long time, and do every day is cool."

That's because it turns out the art of compiling dictionaries — lexicography — "doesn't have the best reputation in Canadian linguistic circles, you know," he said. "I think that's a pity and a mistake now but I didn't always think that way."

Some linguists see dictionaries as too unscientific or subjective, he explained, and "not theoretical enough" compared to other areas of language

research.

Many Canadians don't even know they're using distinct words when they call undercover police vehicles "ghost cars," multilevel parking lots "parkades," woven hats "toques," or (if you're from Saskatchewan) hooded sweaters "bunny hugs."

But British Columbia and the West Coast have our own set of unique words or interpretations, from "slough" to "hyack" (see fact box).



**I was worried about the daunting task but said yes anyway.**

Prof. Stefan Dollinger

The new edition adds 1,002 new words, and roughly 1,300 new meanings, he said, or around 10 per cent new material from the 1967 edition.

But the meticulous work of sourcing and citing definitions and uses is barely begun, Dollinger insisted.

And the public's enthusiasm for lexicography, he added, is perhaps a sign that "there's a void" that hasn't been adequately addressed yet.

"There is plenty left to do," he quipped. "So we're looking for the next editor, for DCHP-3."



**Stefan Dollinger, an associate professor of English at the University of B.C., is author of the second edition of the Dictionary of Canadianisms on Historical Principles (DCHP).**

CONTRIBUTED

## + SLANG SAMPLE

### Skookum

This still-popular word means "good, great, strong, big or brave." Like many distinct B.C. words, it comes from the European-Indigenous dialect Chinook, once used for trade on the West Coast.

### Hyack

It means a "volunteer fireman," and comes from New Westminster's Ancient and Honourable Hyack Anvil Battery — which to this day still conducts ceremonial explosions as a Royal salute, and even has a Twitter account (@Anvilbattery).

### Cariboo slum

"Thick slippery mud, or gumbo, found in the creek valleys of the B.C. interior."

### Slough

An archaic word for a meadow prone to flooding, but also an inlet or lagoon. Most other parts of the world now understand this to mean a snake's skin, except in B.C. where the term is still widely used.

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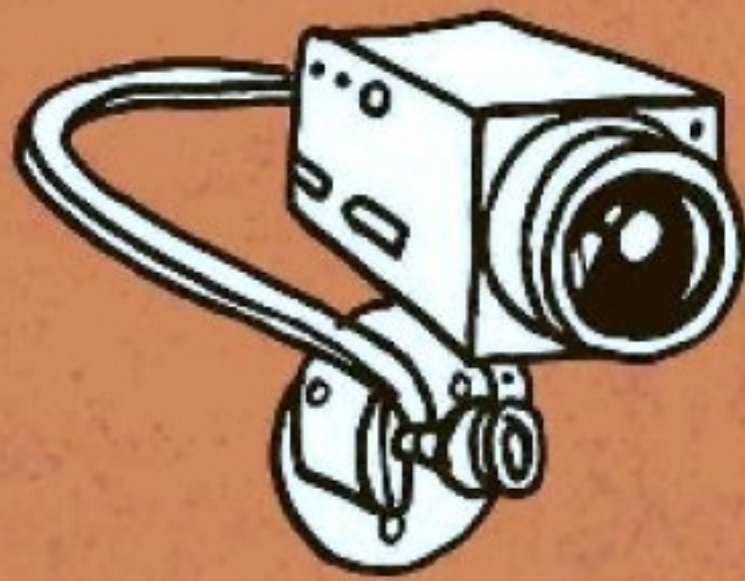


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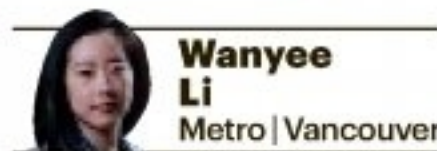


UBC professor Pierre Berube says his system can drop the operational cost of purifying water to almost nothing. CONTRIBUTED

# UBC makes strides in water purification

## TECHNOLOGY

### System to be used first in First Nations community



**Wanyee Li**  
Metro | Vancouver

UBC engineers have found a way to help remote communities gain access to drinking water by creating an affordable water-

purification system that doesn't use chemicals.

The system uses membrane tubes to filter non-potable water into drinkable water, a technique West Vancouver, Abbotsford, and several other B.C. communities already use.

But those conventional membrane filters for water use chemicals to keep the membranes from getting clogged up, and UBC professor Pierre Berube has found a way to use gravity to rinse the membranes periodically, erasing the need for chemical cleaners.

It also drops the operational

cost of turning grey water into drinking water "to essentially nothing."

"Often in smaller communities, there is capital available to build the water system but it's difficult to get operating capital," said Berube, a civil engineer. "We've eliminated those complex systems."

Berube's water-purification system is essentially self-cleaning, with the only mechanism being a valve that opens and closes, mimicking the effects of turning the system on its head every once in a while to let gravity do its work.

Water and air bubbles rush up over the membranes when the valve switches, much like a when a pop bottle is turned upside down, he explained. That movement is enough to dislodge most of clogged debris.

The lack of chemicals also has the added benefit of allowing microbiology communities to grow on the membranes, surviving on the contaminants stuck on the outside of the tubes.

"Those micro organisms will slowly eat away at those retained contaminants. They munch away on [them]," said Berube. His team is currently using a test system installed in West Vancouver to put the finishing touches on the design. The water, although 100 per cent safe to drink, is not going to residents, Berube said.

That opportunity will go to a First Nations community on the west side of Vancouver Island when the system is ready, he said. Berube is working with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada to bring the technology to that community as well as other remote places.

**“Often in smaller communities, there is capital available to build the water system but it's difficult to get operating capital.”** Pierre Berube, UBC professor

## ENGLISH BAY

# Oil spill company skips out on court

A company accused of operating a ship that leaked bunker fuel in Vancouver's English Bay in April 2015 failed to appear in British Columbia Provincial Court to face charges linked to the spill.

The MV Marathassa and Alasia NewShips Management Inc., a firm based in Greece, were due in court Wednesday on 10 charges, including discharge of a pollutant, but only a lawyer for the ship appeared.

The spill of at least 2,700 litres of bunker fuel in English Bay

and the ensuing miscommunications among Canadian authorities and delays in cleanup raised questions about Canada's preparedness for oil spills.

A lawyer for Alasia previously filed an application for judicial review in Federal Court, alleging Canadian authorities failed to properly serve it with summonses, but its case hit a bump on Tuesday when a judge said the company should instead seek relief in B.C. Supreme Court.

The company has said one summons was delivered to a

captain who has no fixed employment with Alasia and who is currently the master of a vessel owned by a different company. However, Crown counsel Jessica Lawn said Wednesday the vessel is operated by Alasia.

Peter Swanson, a lawyer for Alasia, has said the company also does not own the MV Marathassa, but Lawn said outside the courtroom that ownership

of the vessel may be determined by the court.

The next court date in the case is scheduled for June 1.

In all, six charges have been laid under Canadian shipping legislation, two relate to alleged Fisheries

Act violations and single charges are linked to alleged violations of federal environmental laws and the Migratory Bird Act.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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2,700 litres of bunker fuel spilled into English Bay in 2015.



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# BC Greens promise free daycare for kids

## POLITICS

### Public funded preschool, student grants also proposed



Jen St. Denis  
Metro | Vancouver

The BC Green Party is promising publicly funded daycare for children under three and 25 hours of early childhood education a week for three and four year olds under the party's education platform.

"Through an unprecedented investment in early childhood education, we can ensure that our children have the strongest start possible," said Andrew Weaver, MLA for Oak Bay-Gordon Head, at a press conference on April 5.

The party is also proposing to support parents who stay at home with their children with a benefit of up to \$500 a month.

The plan also commits to:

- Increase funding for public schools, starting with a \$220 million increase in 2017 and rising to \$1.46 billion by 2020;
- Invest \$35 million in nutrition and physical activities to ensure children are healthy and prepared for school;
- \$10 million per year for free adult education and \$10 million a year for training for employees of small and medium sized businesses;
- \$65 million over four years for co-operative work programs to prepare high school and university students for their careers;
- Needs-based grants to cover post-secondary tuition and tax forgiveness of up to \$2,000 a



Andrew Weaver, MLA for Oak Bay-Gordon Head, unveils the BC Green Party education platform at a press conference on Wednesday. JEN ST. DENIS/METRO

year to assist graduates pay off their student loans.

The Greens are proposing to raise early childhood education funding from \$495 million in 2017 to \$1.38 billion in 2020.

Weaver said the plan has been fully costed, but those details will be released when the party reveals its full platform later this month. But the free daycare would be partially funded by parents paying tax on the program as a taxable benefit, if they earn more than \$80,000 a year.

Weaver contrasted his party's proposal with the

current tax credit parents who pay for daycare can claim: "You wouldn't have to pay (daycare fees) up front, but if you earn more than \$80,000, at the end of it, if you choose to take that child care, then it would be

viewed as a taxable benefit. So instead of getting a credit back, you'd owe a little bit more."

The BC NDP have promised to adopt a \$10 a day child care plan developed

by B.C. child care advocates, who estimate it would cost government \$1.1 billion a year by 2020.

Weaver indicated the 25

hours of free preschool would be provided by existing preschool operators. The early childhood education system he is proposing would not be rolled into the public K-12 school system, but a Green government would assist preschools to increase capacity.

The BC Green Party is also proposing to overhaul how K-12 education funding is allocated. Currently money is portioned out on a per-student basis, which Weaver said is creating inequities between rich and poor, or urban and rural, communities.

"The funding model needs to be based and determined on what it costs to deliver the education in, for example, Stikine versus the Westside of Vancouver."



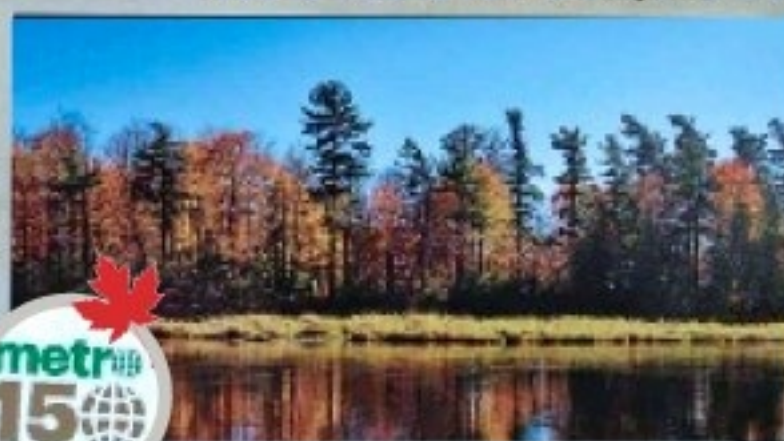
**We can ensure that our children have the strongest start possible.**

Andrew Weaver

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RIDEAU RIVER, OTTAWA, ONT.



THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN LAST FALL AT CARLETON UNIVERSITY, OTTAWA, ONT., AND PROVIDES ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL VIEWS OF THE RIDEAU RIVER. THIS PICTURE IS SIGNIFICANT AS IT IS ONE OF MY FAVOURITE MEMORIES OF UNIVERSITY LIFE. WITH THE NATURAL BEAUTY, CRYSTAL CLEAR WATERS AND SPECTACULAR FALL COLOURS, THIS IS ONE OF MY FAVOURITE PLACES TO BE DURING THE FALL SEASON. **HASSAN KHAN**



## IN BRIEF

### Nardwuar hip-flips with Clark, Horgan and Weaver

Premier Christy Clark managed to "hip flip" the routine of Nardwuar the Human Serviette. The premier gave Nardwuar a certificate of appreciation from the province. True to form, the CTR radio host got Clark to play the Hip Flip from a 1968 board game. New Democrat leader John Horgan and Green Party leader Andrew Weaver also "hip-flipped."

DAVID P. BALL/METRO

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# Police turn to spy tech

PRIVACY

## Mounties admit they use devices to collect cellular details

The RCMP used controversial spy technology to track cell phone data in 19 criminal investigations last year — the first official public acknowledgement that the force uses surreptitious devices to collect Canadians' cellular details.

In a rare briefing with reporters from the Toronto Star, CBC and the Globe and Mail Wednesday morning, RCMP Chief Superintendent Jeff Adam said his force owns 10 so-called "mobile device identifier" (MDI) devices with the ability to gather high-level data about the phone's location — but not private communications.

"We will confirm officially that the RCMP possesses and uses mobile identifier technology in order to identify and locate a suspect in a criminal investiga-

tion," he said.

Adam said the devices identify a suspect's cellphone by gathering "very limited" signalling information in a given vicinity and collecting unique identification information from the phone — called International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI) and International Mobile Equipment Identity numbers (IMEI).

While MDI technology does allow for the collection of personal communications, the RCMP uses equipment that — by policy — does not capture private communications, said Adam.

But Brenda McPhail, director of privacy, technology and surveillance at the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, said even metadata collection is an invasion of privacy. "Metadata includes location information. That is intimately personal. The fact that they only collect metadata doesn't let them off the hook."

The same MDI technology used to target a suspect will also gather up the cellular data of many other Canadians, Adam confirmed. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



In this courtroom sketch, Karim Baratov (right) addresses the court as his lawyer Amedeo Dicarlo (bottom left), Crown Heather Graham (second from left), lawyer Deepak Paradkar (top left) and Justice Alan Whitten look on. THE CANADIAN PRESS

COURT

## Accused Yahoo hacker makes appearance in bail hearing

The father of a Canadian man accused in a massive hack of Yahoo emails told an Ontario court Wednesday that he'd keep all electronic devices locked away and out of his son's reach if his child is released on bail.

Akhmet Tokbergenov was testifying in a Hamilton courtroom at his son's bail hearing, saying he and his wife are pre-

pared to do whatever the court orders if the 22-year-old is released from custody.

Karim Baratov was arrested under the Extradition Act last month after U.S. authorities indicted him and three others — two of them allegedly officers of Russia's Federal Security Service — for computer hacking, economic espionage and other

crimes.

American authorities have alleged in court documents that Baratov poses an "extremely high flight risk" in part due to his alleged ties to Russian intelligence agents and his financial resources. They've noted that Baratov did not appear to have any "legitimate employment."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## NATIONAL DIGEST

### Beyak removed from Indigenous committee

Conservative Sen. Lynn Beyak, who famously declared "some good" came out of Canada's residential schools, has been removed from the Senate's committee on Indigenous peoples.

A spokesperson for interim Conservative leader Rona Ambrose says the senator's controversial comments do not reflect the party's position on residential schools.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### PM showcases idea for procedural reform

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau responded personally to all questions asked by fellow MPs in the House of Commons Wednesday.

The move came as the Liberal government tries to convince the opposition of the merits of its proposed changes to the ins and outs of parliamentary procedure.

One suggestion is to set aside one day of the week for MPs to direct questions to the prime minister, such as is done in Britain — one of the Liberals' campaign promises.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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# Death toll rises in chemical attack

## MIDDLE EAST

## Global leaders seek answers about shocking events in Syria

Abdel Hameed Alyousef lost his two children, his wife and other relatives in the suspected chemical attack Tuesday in the northern Syrian town of Khan Sheikhoun that killed over 80 people, including at least 30 children and 20 women.

The 29-year-old father held his nine-month-old twins, Aya and Ahmed, each in an arm. He choked back tears, mumbling, "Say goodbye, baby, say goodbye" to their lifeless bodies.

When the airstrike took place, "I was right beside them and I carried them outside the house with their mother," Alyousef said.

He brought them to paramedics and, thinking they



Abdul-Hamid Alyousef cries as he holds his twin babies who were killed during a suspected chemical attack in Idlib, Syria.

ALAA AYOUSEF VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

would be OK, went to look for the rest of his family. He found the bodies of two of his brothers, two nephews and a niece, as well as neighbours and friends. Only later was he told his children and wife had died.

The death toll from the suspected chemical attack rose to 86 on Wednesday as activists and rescue workers found more

survivors hiding in shelters near the site of the assault, one of the deadliest in Syria's civil war.

The attack on Khan Sheikhoun killed dozens of people on Tuesday, leaving residents gasping for breath and convulsing in the streets. Haunting images of lifeless children piled in heaps reflected the magnitude

### + AID

International donors pledged \$6 billion in aid for Syria on Wednesday as the UN Security Council held emergency talks over the chemical attack.

Donors from more than 70 countries meeting at a conference on Syria in Brussels made a "collective pledge of \$6 billion for this year alone," EU Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Christos Stylianides said.

of the attack.

A resolution drafted by Britain, France and the U.S. stresses the Syrian government's obligation to provide information about its air operations, including the names of those in command of helicopter squadrons on the day of the attack.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## KANSAS

## Student sleuths oust incoming principal

An incoming high school principal has resigned in Kansas after student reporters investigated and raised questions about her credentials.

The Pittsburg School Board accepted Amy Robertson's resignation on Tuesday, saying she felt the decision was "in the best interest of the district ... in light of the issues that arose."

The main concern stemmed from her receiving her master's and doctoral degrees from Corlins University, an unaccredited, online school. Robertson said she received her degrees before the university lost accreditation.

"She was going to be the head of our school, and we wanted (to) be assured that she was qualified and had the proper credentials," Trina Paul, a student editor at Pittsburg High School's newspaper, The Booster Redux.

Superintendent Destry Brown praised the student reporters, saying: "I appreciate that our kids ask questions and don't just accept something because somebody told them." He told the Pittsburg Morning Sun they "did a great job with the research they did."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## U.S. POLITICS

## Bannon removed from controversial posting

President Donald Trump has removed Steve Bannon from the National Security Council, reversing a controversial decision to give Bannon access to high-level meetings.

A memo about the council's composition no longer lists Bannon as a member of the Principals Committee, a group of

officials who meet to discuss national security priorities.

A senior White House official said Wednesday that Bannon was initially placed on the National Security Council as a measure to ensure implementation of the president's vision, including efforts to streamline operations at the NSC. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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## CHANTAL HÉBERT ON LOSING PATIENCE WITH BOMBARDIER



### After taking tax-payer money, laying off hundreds and rewarding top execs with pay hikes, Bombardier leaves cover-seeking political allies with little more than a fig leaf

It has long been taken for granted that no prime minister, no Quebec premier would ever let Bombardier go under on his or her watch. The aerospace giant's leading contribution to Canada's R&D sector, the thousands of jobs it provides kept it on the short list of Canadian corporations that no government would allow to fail.

Over and above any economic consideration, the fact that Bombardier was the corporate apple in the eye of most Quebecers guaranteed it was treated as a political sacred cow in both capitals.

In the wake of the uproar over its executives' compensation that is a status Bombardier may want to avoid putting to the test. It has become untouchable in the wrong sense of the word.

It is hard to overstate the magnitude of the popular backlash the company's management has unleashed by handing itself pay hikes and bonuses of a magnitude normally consistent with a corporate success story.

At this juncture, Bombardier would qualify for that title only if it were considered a feat to wrestle a multi-billion-dollar bailout from two orders of governments while eliminating thousands of jobs at home and abroad.

A poll published this weekend reported that 93 per cent of Quebecers were

**93% of Quebecers are angry with the company's compensation plans.**

angry over the compensation news. That is as close to unanimity as one can get. It is also the kind of number that no politician can take lightly.

At this point, Bombardier has no friends in the provincial and federal capitals or at least none who is not embarrassed to be associated with the company. In

opposition is having a field day arguing that it walks that talk when it is cutting social programs but not when it is issuing corporate welfare cheques.

On Parliament Hill, the controversy has given new life to the debate over whether Justin Trudeau was right to pledge \$372.5 million in loans to Bombardier

tion Avenir Québec had been arguing that the premier had failed to attach even minimal strings to the public money it handed Bombardier.

Even as the premier tried to turn the heat of public opinion on Trudeau for taking his time to match his government's contribution, the federal Liberals' standing in voting intentions in Quebec continued to climb while that of his own party declined.

When a federal package that fell significantly short of matching Quebec's commitment was belatedly delivered in early February, it was Couillard, and not Trudeau, who took the most flak – for having failed to exact guarantees from the company that Ottawa had secured.

As of now, both governments can only hope that Bombardier will make good on its promise to turn the corner on its financial difficulties – and that it will not ask for more money.

The company may have managed to make corporate bailouts of any kind a lose-lose proposition for politicians.

Bombardier executives believe Quebecers will get over their anger and let bygones be bygones sooner rather than later. But then, they also believed they deserved big bonuses for milking billions of public dollars out of two governments.

They might keep in mind that Quebec's licence plates read: Je me souviens.

**Chantal Hébert** is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.



**TOO BIG TO FAIL** Bombardier, and its CEO Alain Bellemare (pictured), has become untouchable in the wrong sense of the word, writes Chantal Hébert. THE CANADIAN PRESS

response to public pressure, it has announced that it was postponing part of the pay hikes for a year. That has provided its cover-seeking political allies with little more than a fig leaf.

In Quebec the compensation story cut the legs from under Philippe Couillard's Liberal government just as it was getting a rare post-budget boost. The premier has spent the past week fending off opposition charges that his government bailed out the company with little or no regard for safeguarding taxpayers' money from abuse.

Couillard has chosen to make fiscal rigour the mantra of his government. The

earlier this year.

There were plenty of signs in the months leading to the self-serving Bombardier compensation move that Quebecers were running out of patience with its financial demands. Only a company disconnected from reality or too arrogant to think it should be accountable to the taxpayers who bailed it out would have failed to take note of those signs.

Last fall Couillard's decision to sign off on a \$1.3 billion bailout raised more opposition questions in the National Assembly than it elicited applause among the public.

From day one, the Coali-

## Brands you can trust when the world starts to burn



**Vicky Mochama**  
Metro

When the revolution starts, which brand will be there for me?

I wondered this as I watched the caffeinated cola ad starring Kendall Jenner as a model-turned-protest leader. In it, she solves police brutality by handing a police officer a non-Coke soda. When she does it, a cheer goes up in the crowd as if to say, "We realize the police were hypoglycemic. Thanks, Kendall!"

After much backlash, the company has pulled the ad. They're not the only ones to pull ads this week.

The New York Times reported that Fox News blowhard Bill O'Reilly has had to pay out \$13 million in sexual harassment lawsuits over the last few years. Forty advertisers (and counting) have responded by pulling their ads from O'Reilly's show, including major ones like Mercedes Benz, BMW, AllState Insurance and GlaxoSmithKline.

None of these companies pulled their ads from the network last July when allegations surfaced about Fox News CEO Roger Ailes sexually harassing employees. (He left the company soon after.) Maybe all those brands were just monitoring the situation.

Nine months after Ailes' departure, women must be overjoyed that dental company Invisalign is standing up for women.

There's really no reason for brands to be left out of dismantling capitalism.

In fact, between caffeinated beverages and luxury cars, it

is invigorating to find brands that will be there to support the dismantling of systems of oppression.

For example, right-wing media has been assuring us that a race war is forthcoming. Done properly, it's a marketer's dream.

With their long-standing work on buying cool via basketball stars and rap music, Sprite will surely offer to be the drink of black people. Nothing says cool and refreshing like a battle for racial superiority.

I have been planning my outfit for the race war for some time, but what I am really hoping is that Beyoncé's athleisure line, Ivy Park, will supply our uniforms. Canadians who decline to take part can pick up their non-combatant grey sweats from Race War Amnesty title sponsor Roots.

But it's not just during the upcoming race war (sponsored by Halliburton?) when brands can find a lucrative market.

There are unique opportunities right now. As the resistance to Donald Trump coalesces in the United States, there is a profitable opportunity for Staples to provide branded poster board to marchers. In addition to their Easy button, they could issue a "RESIST" button.

There is a product for every consumer. It's just a matter of finding the company that fulfills your desire for de-funding private prisons but also serves the best latte.

Gil Scott Heron was right. The revolution will not be televised.

It will be streamed live on YouTube and hosted by BuzzFeed.

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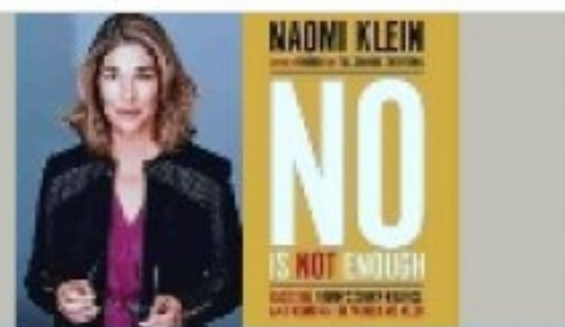
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# Remembering Mom through her pearls

MEMOIR

**Local style guru switches gears in emotional new book**

**Sue Carter**  
For Metro Canada



During her last days in the hospital intensive-care unit, Karen von Hahn's mother Susan could no longer speak, but she could communicate by spelling out letters on a white card.

Susan's last word tapped out to her daughter was "pearls," which von Hahn instinctively knew meant that she was to inherit her mother's prized jewellery.

Von Hahn describes the art deco-fashioned strand of precious jewels as "fat and creamy, but elegantly flapper," in the opening of her new book, *What Remains: Object Lessons in Love and Loss*, a tribute to her mother, who died in 2012, and their complicated relationship.

Von Hahn, one of Toronto's most well-known and enduring style journalists, has spent most of the last three decades talking about the meaning of objects we surround ourselves with. It's a subject she knows

intimately from birth.

Her mother Susan was a glamorous, witty, fun-loving, and perfectly tanned woman with a penchant for designer clothes and a driving need to be immersed in beauty, whether it be a Yves Saint Laurent peasant blouse or the satin silver couches where she would entertain over many vodka cocktails.

Von Hahn catalogues these items with sharp detail, in part to better understand her mother's life and, at times, the pain Susan's seeming narcissism would cause those around her.

"In the end we're left with nothing but a person's things. The reminders and the touchstones and the artefacts of a person's life," observes von Hahn, who started writing *What Remains* a year after her mother's death.

"What did they collect? What did they aspire to? What did they hope for or want to be? All these things are really expressed in the things that surround a person's life. It's like every person is curating their own museum. I thought that was a way in — to circle around the idea of my moth-

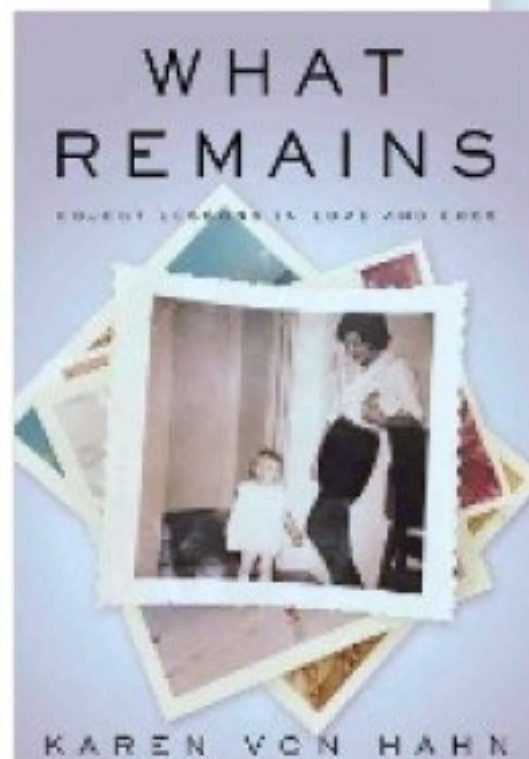
er and my memories of her through the lens of objects and what they mean."

Growing up with a fabulously turned-out mom — and one who demands constant attention, often at the expense of others — can be tough on kids, especially as they test out their own emerging identities, only to discover there's little room left to share in the spotlight.

Von Hahn and her siblings were often left to their own devices, even when a little parental nurturing was called for. "In our house it was clear that the story was about my parents," says von Hahn. "It was their love affair and we children were just ancillary to that."

In the book, she recalls her mother's obsession with glamour as both a point of pride and embarrassment.

"She would appear at school and wouldn't look like any of the other mothers at all. She didn't care about the rules or whether other people thought she was appropriate. She was a bohemian at heart," says von Hahn. "But sometimes as a kid you think, 'Oh my God, can't they just be normal, like everyone else's parents for just one



second?"

It's been roughly four years since von Hahn starting writing *What Remains*, still in the thick emotional pool of both sorrow and relief.

And while the memoir may have been therapeutic in some ways, she continues to deeply miss her mother's physical presence and sharp insight.

"She refused to be forgotten. She was one of a kind. I felt she deserved the effort to be remembered because she was just amazing," says von Hahn. "I hope that the portrait of her I paint, which is warts and all, is true. I was mad for her."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.



In her memoir, journalist Karen von Hahn pays homage to her glamorous late mother, who she says was a bohemian at heart — something she didn't always appreciate as a kid. CONTRIBUTED



**In our house it was clear that the story was about my parents. It was their love affair and we children were just ancillary to that.**

Karen von Hahn



Rupert Grint as Charlie Cavendish-Scott in *Snatch*. CONTRIBUTED



**JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING**

## Criminally inept, in more ways than one

**THE SHOW:** *Snatch*, Season 1, Episode 2 (Crave)

**THE MOMENT:** The rapping Hasidim

Londoners Albert (Luke Pasqualino) and Charlie (Rupert Grint) are in debt to gangsters. They've agreed to ferry three Brooklyn diamond merchants named Heimel, and their stash of stones, from Gatwick airport to a powerful fence.

Charlie's eyes widen in glee when he spies the Hasidim in their long coats, hats and shades,

striding in slow motion like *Reservoir Dogs*. The three settle in the back seat of a minivan. "Where can we have a little fun around here?" Heimel #1 asks.

"What kind of fun are you referring to?" Charlie asks.

"Mad fun, da," replies Heimel #2.

"All work and no play makes Abel a dull boy," #1 says. #2 passes out tabs of MDMA. The Hasidim swallow.

"Turn up the music," #1 orders, and all three begin furiously rapping to Run DMC's *It's*

*Tricky to Rock a Rhyme*. With hand gestures.

This 10-hour series, based on a real gold heist, borrows the choppy, stop-start style from Guy Ritchie's 2000 film of the same name. Unfortunately, it borrows everything that's frantic, florid and faux-gangsta about it, too.

Alongside the rapping Hasidim, there are dirty boxers, mob-connected Cuban club-owners and not one but two self-serving, hard-boiled dames. There's also a father/son arc, as Albert tries to escape the shadow of

his crooked dad Vic (Dougray Scott), who's still running heists from prison.

Under all the noise, though, the plot keeps taking the same wrong turn: the lads repeatedly trip on their ineptitude. Criminality can be fun. But too much criminal stupidity will make *Snatch* a dull show.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.



# More than a feline: why cats are so weird

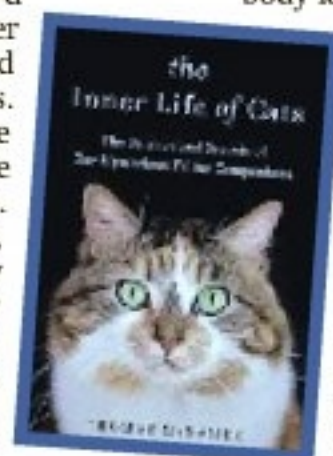
INTERVIEW

## The whiskers and all story of what kitty is really thinking

Genna Buck  
Metro | Toronto



Cats are weird. They growl when they're happy, hiss when they're mad, and do that weird kneading thing on the couch for no apparent reason. There's some debate about whether they love us back, or if they'd be plotting to murder us if they only had opposable thumbs. They are some of the wildest animals we let into our homes. Thomas McNamee, author of the new book *The Inner Life of Cats*, says our cats love us, and they can communicate with us — we just have to learn how to listen.



of it. Our cats are directly descended from the North African wildcat, and they're not very far from them. A lot of their habits and their psychology are directly related to that wildcat. On the other hand, there are aspects of their being that have evolved to be extremely domestic. You have to pay attention to how cats relate to humans. Dogs are easy to read. Cats are not so easy. But a cat really will love you.

### So how do I know if my cat loves me?

The first step is to learn their body language. The most

important expression of affection is the long, slow blink, looking right at you. And the straight tail with a little hook on top is a very friendly gesture. They will do things to you that wildcats do to one another to say, "I like you": bumping into your leg with their head, or rubbing their face against you.

### What surprised you the most, out of all you learned?

The thing that struck me most is the depth and complexity of their emotions. I really had no idea how much was going on. There's been a tremendous amount of scientific research done in the last 20 years, and the results have not made it into the cat books that you can buy by the dozens.

### What should be in those books?

People need to know that cats have deep emotional needs. Some people feed them, let them out, that's it. And the cat becomes a living, breathing sofa cushion. And here's another thing: The most important thing in most cat's lives is their litter box. It's true. It's like "This is where

I leave the most olfactory information, these is my territory, my headquarters." And if your litter box situation is not right, your cat is going to be out of sorts all the time.

### How do you know if you're doing the litter box right?

Well, the cat will eventually tell you. It needs to be sheltered, out of traffic, but it's got to have an escape route. Other cats need to respect it.

It needs to be clean, but not too clean. Bleach is no good either. Respect is very much tied to it. It sounds silly, but if you look at the cat when it's doing its business in the box, they have this kind of sort of dreamy look on their face. They're in this kind of trance. They're completely absorbed in the experience.

**Cats are so weird...**  
Yes they are!



Learning cats' body language is key to bonding. iStock



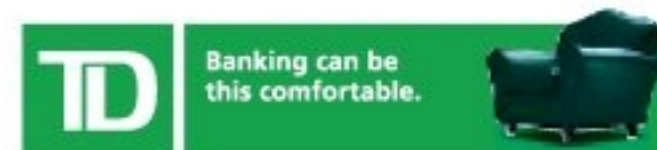
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## MUSIC BRIEFS

### Junos sales boost for stars

Call it the Juno effect. Data released by Nielsen Wednesday showed how featuring on Canadian music's biggest night paid off for some of the country's biggest artists.

Performers and winners saw huge spikes in fans streaming and buying their music after Sunday's ceremony. The Strumbellas, who won single of the year for *Spirits*, saw sales of that song increase nearly 200% while Alessia Cara, winner

of pop album of the year for *Know It All* saw her album increase 140% overnight. METRO

### Manilow comes out at 73

Barry Manilow has come out as gay, telling *People* magazine that he hid his sexuality for decades because he thought he would be "disappointing fans if they knew." The 73-year-old music legend married his longtime manager, Gary Kief, in a 2014 ceremony in California.

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# RESPONDING TO AN EMERGENCY IN A REMOTE LOCATION

**Rural paramedics come across more unexpected — and sometimes more dangerous — crisis situations**

If you're a paramedic working in a remote location, surprises are part of the job description.

"Paramedics who work in remote areas of B.C. are always prepared for the unexpected," says Amy Chris, a paramedic and a spokesperson for the Paramedics of BC in Salmo, a small town located in the province's West Kootenay region.

Rural paramedics respond to a wide variety of emergency calls that tend to be quite different from the everyday 911 calls in a city — hunting accidents, wildlife encounters including bear attacks, ATV and snowmobile accidents, and injured hikers and mountain bikers.

It's a mixed bag, so paramedics in remote locations across B.C. need to be ready to respond to anything, sometimes with very limited resources. British Columbia has one of



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the busiest emergency medical services in the world, taking and dispatching service among B.C.'s 4.5 million people. It can take its toll on paramedics in rural areas.

"At times, the next closest ambulance is an

hour or more away," says Chris. "This means that crews rely heavily on each other as partners, often being the only ambulance on a scene."

The British Columbia Ambulance Service

**AT TIMES, THE NEXT CLOSEST AMBULANCE IS AN HOUR OR MORE AWAY.**

— Amy Chris, Paramedics of BC

(BCAS), including B.C.'s paramedics (APBC), respond to 911 calls over 944,700 square kilometres. In 2013–2014, BCAS responded to more than 425,000 emergency 911 calls and transported 6,600 patients by air ambulance.

During remote emergencies, crews rely on satellite phones, their personal survival kits, other standard equipment in all B.C. ambulances, their own skills and quick thinking.

"Because of challenges with daylight, weather and terrain, there are times when we run the risk of spending the night outdoors with our patients, particularly when we're responding in a helicopter," says Chris.

When resources are strained for paramedics, British Columbians don't get the emergency medical services they need.

Learn more about how to support B.C. paramedics at [moreparamedics.com](http://moreparamedics.com).

## Remarkable double rescue on the lake

*As told by Amy Chris, a paramedic in Salmo, B.C.*

One summer, our East Kootenay crew was paged to a remote camping area by a lake for a quading accident. Our response time was just under an hour because of the location and confusion over which backcountry road the patient and friends were on.

When we arrived, we found one patient who had lost control of a quad and rolled it down a bank — a near-vertical cliff that dropped down to the lake.

The quad had rolled into the water and the patient was stuck in a crack in the rock. He was face out and feet down, but he couldn't feel his legs and was terrified. My partner and I couldn't safely reach him, but luckily a local man with an ATV was able to help. He drove us to where he had cell service, and was able to help us secure a helicopter-landing zone.

An RCMP boat and a fire rescue rope team also arrived on the scene. The team lowered my partner to the RCMP boat and equipment down to the patient. Then the rope team lowered me in a harness to the patient.

We secured him to a backboard, and then lowered him down to my partner on



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the boat. We quickly got him to the waiting helicopter, which flew him and my partner to the hospital.

I was exhausted, covered in dust and dirt, sweating and thirsty. I radioed dispatch to tell them the helicopter had taken off. Then I walked to the campsite store for a bottle of water before the hour drive to the helicopter hangar to pick up my partner.

As I'm walking up to the store, a young man ran up to me shouting, "I'm glad you got here so quickly! My friend is over here."

It turned out this person had just called 911 because he and his friends had rented a houseboat, had been partying all weekend and his friend had overdosed on drugs. His friend was unconscious, but still breathing.

The RCMP had left, I had no partner and limited equipment. Knowing another ambulance was 45 minutes away at best, I called dispatch and asked one of the fire rescue crews to drive for me as I attended to the patient. I treated him and we were able to transport him to the closest hospital.



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### Anatomy of an ambulance

Here are few key pieces of equipment in every B.C. ambulance.

**Monitor/AED defibrillator:** Device to monitor, analyze and shock a patient's heart to restart it or act as a pacemaker.

**Airway intervention equipment:** Multiple devices to clear and secure a patient's airway and provide ventilations.

**Emergency medications:** A variety of medications used to treat life-threatening conditions such as heart attacks, strokes, allergic reactions, breathing problems, blood loss and overdoses.

**Trauma gear:** A variety of specialized equipment to deal with traumatic injuries, such as shootings, car accidents or significant falls. Helps stop bleeding and stabilize the patient.



A woman is sitting on a light blue rug in a dark room, holding a baby. The room is dimly lit, with a crib and some toys visible in the background. The woman is looking down at the baby with a concerned expression.

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## ELLIOT STREET





# Don't forget decor for the fifth wall

## INTERIORS

### Ceiling treatment can add dimension to room design

Consider your ceiling a canvas. It's worked for centuries in palaces and places of worship — there's no reason it can't work for your castle, too. From subtle to spectacular, here are five designer treatments for your fifth wall.



#### Paint

Colour lends drama and luxury to a room in a way that white paint can't. Colour allows you to define a room in the same way that an area rug does. Psychologically, people are often most comfortable with ceiling colours that are similar to those found in nature.

In making your selection, the sky really is the limit. Be brave and have fun with it. Consider the light blue of a clear morning, or the golden hues of a sunset, the blue of a full-moon night sky all the way to the deepest black of a moonless night. This kind of ceiling treatment can be achieved in a weekend with relative ease and a modest budget.

#### Wallpaper

Back on trend in a very big way, wallpaper can deliver features such as texture, sheen and pattern to any room. Take grass cloth — it can give an embossed textured to a ceiling, with either tone-on-tone or contrasting colours for maximum effect. Using a sheen lets you create a shiny or matte detail and it's most effective in a space which has some up-lighting to enhance the light play on the ceiling.

Don't be afraid of pattern in the right place: imagine the impact of a palm leaf motif on the ceiling of a solarium or sun room. What better way to create atmosphere? Pattern on all five walls of a powder room can work well, too.

#### Lighting

More times than not, bigger is actually better when it comes to lighting a space and delivering an impact.

The importance of scale can't be underestimated. In a foyer, for example, you should seek out something that practically fills the entire ceiling tray. Consider it functional jewelry for your entranceway, setting a tone for your entire home. Dining rooms, too, are often excellent rooms in which to hang a statement piece. Keep in mind the designer rule that the fixture should be



**Clockwise from top: Coeffers can add depth and beams can give a pop of colour; crown moulding adds height to ceilings; all-over wallpaper can have a big impact, especially in small spaces; statement light fixtures, like this chandelier, can set the style tone of a room.** ALL PHOTOS TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

approximately two-thirds the diameter of the dining table. If you can't find that in a single fixture, don't hesitate to use two or three of the same style to achieve your well-lit layered look.

#### Coffers

A series of sunken panels in the shape of a square, rectangle or octagon in the ceiling, coffers can give a room the look of rich, old-world luxury while providing a solution to a multitude of sins.

Electrical wires can be hidden with coffers and pot lights can be installed. With the proliferation of condos and their concrete ceilings, coffers provide an opportunity for good general light and visual interest. This newly added depth gives you the opportunity to add colour to the variety of details and levels, or simply the ceiling itself. This is not a weekend warrior project;

it requires the tools and skill set of a tradesperson.

#### Mouldings

Offering subtle embellishment to the ceiling, mouldings can be as simple or detailed as your taste allows. Many older homes have lower ceilings measuring eight feet or so. As a result, white was typically used in the past to visually increase the height of the ceiling. Mouldings in this kind of application allow for you to play with depth, shadow and light in a way which dressed the ceiling as opposed to lowering it. Crown moulding is a classic detail and a favourite of many which will never go out of style.

Moulding added to the centre of the ceiling in a Greek key pattern, for example, is trending right now and often painted out in the same colour as the ceiling.

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# Spring decor *hand-made* in Montreal

Three eco-conscious designers from Montreal are collaborating on a home decor collection linked by their neutral tones and blue accents. Available now on eBay Canada, the collection ships free and proceeds go to Evergreen, a charity that promotes sustainable cities. **MELITA KUBURAS/METRO**

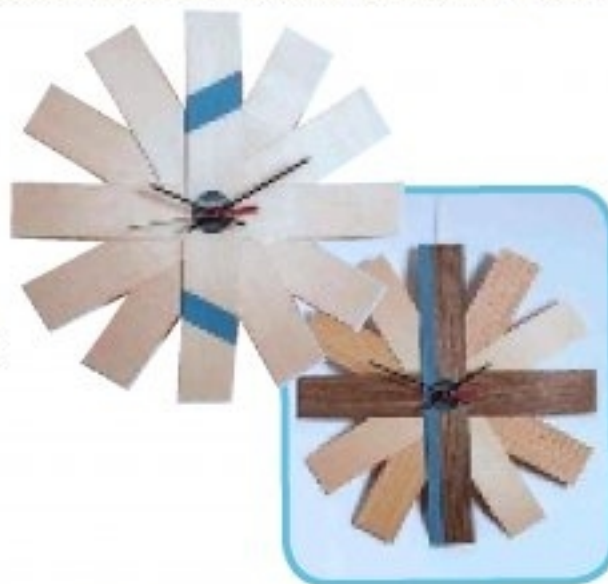


Midnight Owl (top) \$65;  
North Caribou \$65

All items available at  
[eBay.ca/collaborations](http://eBay.ca/collaborations)

## Cushy creatures by Velvet Moustache

Majorie Labrègue-Lepage's company will celebrate 10 years this September — the Midnight Owl was one of the first in her collection of square-shaped animals. "I buy organic cotton threads and recycled fabric polyester and we take all those materials to knit the fabric," she says, of the terrycloth cushions made in Montreal's Ville-Marie neighbourhood. Textile sustainability is a core value. "It should be important to everyone," she says.



RELOJ Maple (left) \$55;  
RELOJ Walnut x Maple x Oak \$55

## Nature time by Atelier Cocotte

Designer Isabelle Auger is known for her abstract light fixtures and lamps made out of bendy wooden strips, but she sometimes adds complementary decorative items to her workshop. The timepieces are made from Canadian maple, oak and walnut.

## Trendy tableware by a ceramic artist

Marjorie Camiré says all her pieces are tipped in glaze, which creates a random gradient pattern that makes each item unique. "Cobalt blue is a pigment you can find in nature and it's a classic in ceramics — like the old-timey pottery that are patterned with that pigment — and I decided to use it differently," she tells Metro.

Vase \$80; Salt Box \$35  
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# In a homeowner's hindsight

## NO REGRETS

### Things they wish they'd known before buying

Camilla Cornell

Shoulda, woulda, coulda. If you've managed to make it through life with no regrets, you're definitely in the minority.

Even Frank Sinatra, who famously crooned I Did It My Way, had a few. But since buying a home is probably one of the biggest-ticket purchases you will ever make in your life, we asked recent homebuyers to share with us some of the things they wish they'd known about the process.

1. **Get your ducks in a row well in advance when it comes to financing.** Chris Ryall lost the house of his dreams because "the bank wasn't able to get their act together in time." Ryall had already owned and



After having to withdraw a bid he put on a 'dream' home due to an abundance of unexpected paperwork, Chris Ryall purchased a townhome with his girlfriend in Burlington, Ont. last July. TIM FRASER

paid off two houses, but after his divorce, he and his girlfriend wanted to buy a house together.

"I figured getting financing would just be a formality," he says. Ryall reasoned that he owns a business, has a credit score in the top five per cent, and has been with the same bank for many years. But he couldn't have

been more wrong. "None of that meant diddly-squat," he says.

2. **Do a credit check in advance.** "Credit scoring agencies like Equifax and TransUnion can make mistakes," says Ryall. His girlfriend's credit score still reflected an old loan she had repaid long ago. And, as Ryall points out, every time some com-

pany does a credit check on you — for instance, when you're changing cell phone plans or if you move and have to set up services in the new location — it can negatively impact your credit score.

3. **Opting for a condo? Read the rules and regs thoroughly.** "I was surprised

at some of the fees implemented by my condo board," says personal finance blogger Barry Choi (moneywehave.com), who bought a condo last year with his wife Carla Salvosa.

"If we ever get locked out of our unit, we'll be charged to have the concierge let us back in," he says. "We'll also be charged if we

leave our car in its parking spot when they're power washing the garages." Although Choi and his wife haven't yet been dinged for anything, he says, "some of the fees listed still seem insane to me."

4. **Buying a new home? Think long term and upgrade the materials.** "We bought our house brand new from a builder," says Nancy Truman of Markham, Ont. I wish we had known to upgrade the materials used at the time."

Just 12 years on, Truman has already replaced the roof and the attic insulation. In addition, she says "the windows ice up and the garage door keeps falling apart."

5. **Give yourself time to get out of one home and into another.** Dan and Jasmine Young moved into their home in Toronto's east end in December. "We closed on our new house and old house on the same day," he says. "That meant we had to be out of one house and coordinate getting into the other all on the same day. It added a ton of stress on top of having a pregnant wife in her third trimester!"



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## HOW TO MAKE YOUR SOLO PURCHASE A SOLO SUCCESS

Everyone wants a place to call home. And when it's time to start looking to buy, rising home prices and a shortage of inventory can make it daunting for people who want to buy solo, especially in the city. But it can be done. Vancouver-based Peggy Barnett, Senior National Manager, TD Canada Trust, offers some creative ways to help a single buyer confidently make one of the biggest purchases of their lives:

### Know what you can afford

There's a big difference between your maximum approved mortgage amount and how much you can really afford month-to-month. Remember, it's not just a mortgage payment you have to manage: other costs including property taxes, insurance, strata fees and ongoing maintenance will add up. Your mortgage payments should be low enough so you can take care of all your monthly expenses, meet your savings goals and still have some wiggle room. It's also important to have a contingency budget or slush fund set aside each year to cover

emergencies and household maintenance. But before you make any commitments, do your research and seek out professional financial advice — check out the TD Mortgage Affordability Calculator online, talk to a mobile mortgage specialist and get pre-approval for the mortgage to help you better understand your overall financing situation.

### Don't need the space? Rent it out

As housing prices continue to rise in major Canadian cities, especially in Metro Vancouver, making the most of your investment has never been more important. Consider buying a home with extra space; that way you can decide later if you'd like to rent out an extra room or your basement. You won't miss the extra space if you don't need it, and the rental income can help pay down the mortgage principal more quickly. Be sure to qualify for your mortgage without rental income so you have flexibility if you decide a roomie or tenant is not for you.



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### Protect your investment

Going solo as a buyer and a landlord means you also need to protect your newest and biggest investment; with a mortgage, you need insurance. Be sure to do your research with your insurance advisor to secure coverage that gives you peace of mind. Fire replacement coverage is something people typically think about, but should you also consider earthquake or sewer back-up coverage? What about additional coverage for a home office or identity theft? Think

about your neighbourhood and personal circumstances and make sure you speak to your insurer to secure the insurance that fits your needs. And remember to inform your insurer if you decide to rent out part of your home, make any renovations, or other changes as this will affect your coverage.

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# Staging your home so it sticks

## EXPERT HELP

### Play up the selling points and downplay the chore list

Vicky Sanderson

A booming real estate market doesn't reduce the benefits of hiring a stager. In fact, working with a professional can only add more value, says designer and stager Becky Freeman, because it results in even higher offers.

"As well, in a seller's market, you have to give buyers a reason for the high price," says Freeman, adding that her clients can typically expect a return on the cost of staging equal to between one and three per cent of the asking price.

DIY expert Leigh-Ann Allaire Perrault, who wrote a staging course curriculum for Sheridan College in Ontario, says the process should be seen as an investment rather than a cost. "If you give me \$5,000 and I give you \$20,000, where's the question?" she asks.

An effective stager brings fresh eyes to a property, adds Freeman. "People think their home is decorated perfectly, but often it has to be refined and decluttered — the analogy would be to a boutique hotel suite."

Both professionals say pre-showing organization is key. After visiting a site, Freeman creates a report for clients that details jobs to be done, with a clickable shopping list. She



Designer and stager Becky Freeman likens staging vacant homes and condos to "filling a blank space in a day or two." IRVIN SIDHU

can also connect homeowners with third-party experts, such as organizers and tradespeople.

Near the top of her to-do list is ensuring that there's a "purpose" for every room. "The buyer is looking and thinking, what can I use this room for? So every room must have a specific reason. You don't want two things going on in the same room, or to have undefined spaces."

Sellers often make the mis-

take of underestimating just how stressful the process will be, or how much work will need to be done. "One of my strengths is as an empathy coach, who understands it's not going to be easy. But I can explain the need to get rid of stuff, or store items, or do this or that in terms of how they will work as marketing tactics." To "sweeten" the news, Freeman always arrives at the first meeting with chocolate

in hand.

To reduce stress, stager Nella Deluca often suggests people go on vacation while she addresses the staging details, including one of her pet peeves — poorly scaled rugs. ("They should anchor the furniture, and not float!" she says firmly.)

Social media may play an increasingly important role in real estate marketing, but Allaire Perrault has a caveat. "It's easy to fake reality by adding

filters or shoot with an extra-wide lens to make something look bigger. But don't set people up to be disappointed! As with everything, under-promise and over deliver."

Deluca is all for homeowners doing renovations prior to listing, but reminds them it's not their chance to do a dream makeover. "They will want to do things they love that make the space very self-specific. That can make it challenging to sell.

Anything that's fixed should be neutral, not too ornate, and universally appealing."

Allaire Perrault agrees that decor matters when selling a home. "But you have to stage for all the senses," she adds. "If the floor squeaks and the stair rails wobble and the door handles are loose or sticky, each of those things goes on a buyer's subconscious chore list, and one that has costs attached to it."



## + EXTERIOR

Staging often focuses on the interior of a home, but DIY expert Leigh-Ann Allaire Perrault reminds sellers that prospective buyers will often drive by a house before touring it. "If the exterior doesn't capture them, they'll just keep going," she says.

# Using social to help sell your house



Take advantage of real estate sites and social media platforms to boost exposure of your property listing. ISTOCK

Like many Toronto residents, Cayla Hochberg was optimistic about selling her home because of the lucrative market, but wanted to help spread the word of the new listing as much as possible.

And so she turned to social media.

"I shared the MLS listing on Facebook, and not only did people leave encouraging comments — like 'Beautiful home,' 'Great backyard,' and 'You shouldn't have any problems selling it' — they'll in turn share the listing with their circle of friends," says Hochberg. "The comments then turned to questions like 'What's the lot size?'"

The school teacher says her agent received a "great response" from the buzz generated online.

The home sold last month for well above asking price, though Hochberg concedes she's unaware if her Facebook posts were a contributing factor. "But you never know who will see your post."

## Professionals agree

Lahav Reznik, broker and managing partner of Forest Hill Real Estate Vaughan, says posting a listing to social media not only helps spread awareness of your home, but can translate to a higher price, based on his experience.

"Studies tell us more than 94 per cent of people are looking for homes online, therefore you'll be missed if you're not there," says Reznik. "In a nutshell, not being present on social media could make a difference between sell-

ing at market value and selling it hundreds of thousands over market value."

"Even though we're in a crazy market right now, a 'for sale' sign on your lawn and a MLS listing just aren't enough. The more you're out there promoting the listing on Facebook and Instagram, the higher the probability of showings, the higher the probability of offers, and the higher probability of getting a higher price," says Reznik.

With social media, you're also opening up your listing to foreign buyers, adds Reznik. "It's more than just hitting your local market," he says, adding that having a website, along with a social media presence, is a good idea as some countries might block access to Facebook and

other platforms.

## Tips on maximizing posts

The first tip, according to Reznik, is to ensure a social media post grabs someone's attention with an enticing headline and plenty of photos and perhaps videos, too.

"Have a catchy phrase that will make people want to tap or click on it, such as 'Rarely offered lot in highly desirable area' as an example," says Reznik. "High-resolution images are also a must as a marketing tool, such as a collage of pictures or good-looking videos."

Recording with a drone, aerial photos and videos of a property are also popular today, especially for estate homes, he adds.

MARC SALTZMAN





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# When what's on the outside really does count

## STREET VIEW

### Greenery, a coat of paint can make all the difference

Liz Bruckner

Whether you're preparing to sell or have just moved into a new home, stepping up your exterior game can make a huge difference in how inviting your home looks and feels.

According to Mara Schachter, principal at Mara Schachter Design, these are the strategic, impactful outdoor renovations worthy of your time.

#### Invest in landscaping

As subjective as landscaping can be, it's important not to overlook this area of your home's exterior.

"My advice is to keep it simple. A Versailles-like maze of boxwoods may look like beauty to some, but a burden to others," says Schachter.

To get the most crowd-pleasing effect, start by tidying scrappy garden beds, trim wayward plant tufts, cut back overgrown hedges, and lay sod or grass seed where needed.

"Think of creating a space with well-placed shrubbery, a green lawn, a well-lit entryway and an inviting front door," she says.

#### Consider replacing old windows and doors

Just because windows and doors function and keep out the cold/snow/rain doesn't mean they're well insulated or don't require maintenance. While they may not be falling apart or in dire need of replacement, Schachter says if you're considering updating, think of the benefits new versions offer.

"Beyond improving the aesthetics of a home, replacing old windows and doors provides functional benefits too — like less maintenance, better energy performance and even reduced street noise."

Trying to revamp these areas on a budget? Refreshing the paint on your front door and the trim surrounding windows can revive the look of your home's exterior.

#### For a complete overhaul, paint your brick

A little paint can go a long way in transforming the look of any home.

When giving your brick a facelift, first ascertain that it is in good condition (you may need a waterproof primer for more porous older bricks).

Determine the fixed elements — the existing brick or roof colour — and work from there, says Schachter. Keep the palette simple and consistent for the most dramatic effect, and use the best quality outdoor paints you can afford. "It's important to remember, as well, that exterior



Adding greenery and new lighting to a front porch makes an instant first impression. ISTOCK

colours need to be really toned down and have a flat finish because they intensify and look brighter in daylight on a house than they do on the colour card in the paint store."

She adds paint application may not be appropriate for every brick house, so it's best to consult a professional before you start the painting process.

#### Update your lighting

Bright, well-placed lights can do much to highlight your home's

architectural features and landscaping. Options are seemingly endless, so consider the role you want your lights to play — whether for safety or decorative purposes — before you buy.

"You want to make sure whatever lighting you choose has the right scale and proportion," Schachter says, "so the fixtures compliment the house's overall style."

#### Dress up your porch

Infusing your porch with per-



A few potted plants and a fresh coat of paint in a bold colour can change the look of your home from the outside. ISTOCK

sonality is an easy way to boost your home's outdoor style.

Re-paint or re-stain areas that need it, and consider adding new or updated columns and/or railings for added visual interest.

Incorporating aesthetically pleasing brackets and corbels are nice touches, as is revamping your porch ceiling. Add a fresh coat of paint, replace old bead board panels, if needed, and install a new light fixture and a few well-placed flowers or plants to complete the space.

#### Install shutters

Adding shutters is an easy way to boost your home's overall appeal. Look for options that are sized to cover windows when they're closed, paying attention to how and where they're installed.

"Over time, shutters have become more decorative than functional, but it's important that they still look like they could actually protect windows as they were originally meant to," says Schachter.

Shutters tend to look best on single windows — placing them beside double or triple variations doesn't look as authentic, she says — and while one pair can nicely boost your home's style, flanking them on every window isn't necessary.

#### And remember...

The most worthwhile investments depend on the state of your home and the homes in your neighbourhood, says Schachter.

"The most valuable renovation projects will differ from home to home because good design isn't just about how something looks, but also about how it works."

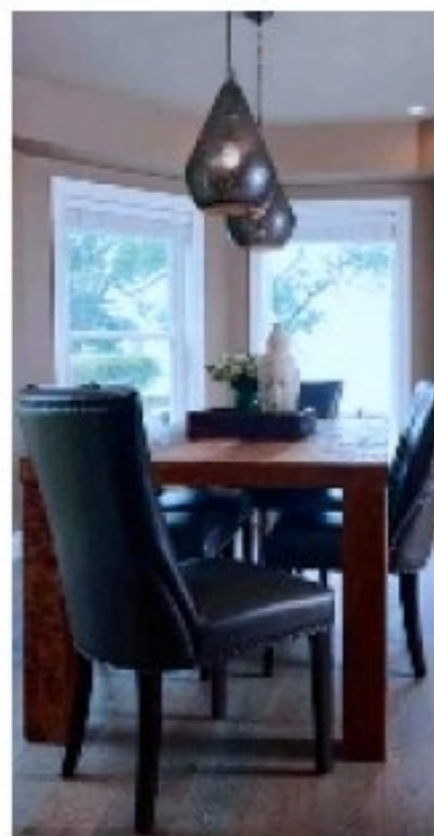
For example, replacing old windows and doors results in more than just a cleaner look; it also provides better energy performance, reduces hydro costs, and improves indoor comfort.

If you're going to stay in your house for the foreseeable future, spend now to save later.

## Overhauling what lies just under your feet



A durable engineered hardwood floor by Torly's is used in an open concept kitchen and dining room. DANN TARDIF



Even if you're not prepared to fully gut, renovate and invest in an overhaul, upgrading your floors can do much to boost the style (and value) of your abode.

"I think floors are one of the most underappreciated aspects of a design project," says Lisa Canning, interior designer. "You can make so much impact in a room with flooring, from creating stunning patterns to elevating the architectural details in a space. They can almost be treated like a fifth wall in a room."

So which options are best? It's a trifecta of personal preference, material quality and considering the space you're overhauling, Canning says.

"There are advantages associated with each category of flooring, but it's important to select the variety with the style and functionality you're after."

In terms of hardwood, it's perennially popular with homeowners because it can be sanded and stained to whatever colour you like, is easily refinished as needed, adds to a home's value for a higher resale price and is truly customizable in terms of design. Its kryptonite, Canning says, is water, as it warps if moisture is left to pool for too long.

Engineered hardwood ex-

pands and contracts less than solid hardwood, making installation on all levels of a home easy. It's available in a variety of colours, finishes and species, and is more budget-friendly than solid hardwood. While it stands up to water damage better than hardwood — because the top layer of this type of flooring is made with a thin layer of wood veneer — sanding and refinishing is not possible. Premature warping or fading is also possible if the product is poorly made.

Laminate flooring's main selling feature is its cost-effective price point, easy installation, durable finish and that it's very resistant to moisture. Canning says its downfall is that it can look and feel artificial.

Ceramic, porcelain and stone tile are appealing, thanks to the

variety of design options. They also boost a home's resale value, are waterproof, stain-proof, low-maintenance and often are very budget-friendly. The drawbacks? There's a plethora of bland and boring options, says Canning, and tiles are cold on feet. Installation also tends to be labour-intensive, and therefore, expensive.

Carpeting uniquely offers softness and comfort underfoot, is affordable, covers uneven areas easily and offers soundproofing qualities in any given space. Its downfall is that it requires more rigorous cleaning in comparison to solid surfaces, says Canning.

She adds that, while any of the above options could potentially work in a space based on the design aesthetic you're after, there are a few expert-derived guidelines for the selection process.

**Before you buy, consider:**

**Location:** Basements often experience ground moisture, and kitchens and bathrooms are more likely to have issues with humidity and water damage, so it's paramount that the flooring material you choose is able to withstand these potential issues.

**UV exposure:** If the space you're

renovating has a steady amount of direct sun throughout the day, these rays can fade or even darken certain types of flooring. Keep this in mind before settling on a product.

**In-floor heating:** If you're planning on installing radiant heat, know that some materials aren't compatible with this feature. Speak to a flooring expert about which styles are ideal for your space.

**Durability:** Many people aren't aware that certain types of hardwood — bamboo among them — are notorious for being very brittle and difficult to work with, says Canning. Before you buy, research the type of wood you're considering and speak to your contractor about the wood moisture reading process before you move forward with installation.

**Wood shade.** Despite popular belief, going dark with your floors does not hide dirt, says Canning.

"I actually think it's the opposite. Dust, lint and other natural fibres show up pretty evidently against a dark stain or tile, so choose your dark finishes with caution." LIZ BRUCKNER





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## Listening to all offers

### NFL GM admits to entertaining trade talk on Sherman

Seattle Seahawks general manager John Schneider said Wednesday the team has listened to trade offers regarding cornerback Richard Sherman, but downplayed that a deal may actually happen.

Schneider made his comments in an interview with KIRO-AM. Schneider said, "What you've seen lately in the news is real. That's on both sides," in regard to recent rumblings that teams have inquired about Sherman.

Schneider's comments back those made by Seattle coach Pete

Carroll during the NFL owners' meetings last week in Arizona. Carroll said the team always entertains calls about players, but didn't anticipate anything happening with Sherman.

Schneider also gave the impression that a deal was unlikely to happen on Wednesday, but Seattle is sending a message that it is clearly listening when it comes to its former All-Pro cornerback.

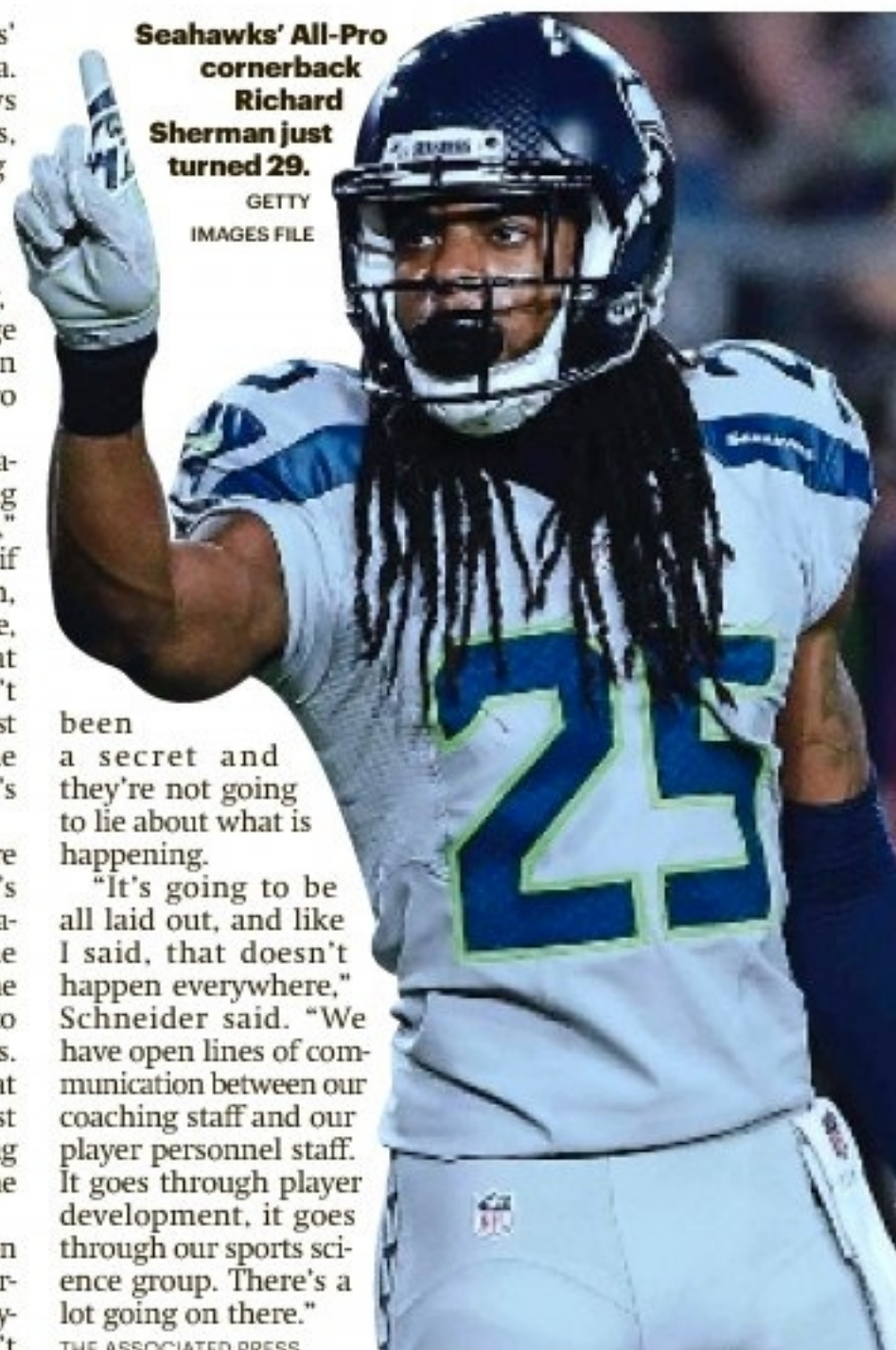
"It's just open communication. He knows what's going on. We know what's going on," Schneider said. "I don't know if anything would ever happen, but like I tell people all the time, 98 per cent of the deals that we're involved with, we don't follow through with. But at least we've opened that door, gone down the road and seen what's behind Door A or Door B."

Sherman has spent his entire career with the Seahawks. He's coming off his most volatile season that included two sideline blowups during games when he clashed with coaches and had to be pulled aside by teammates. He's also part of a defence that is getting older — Sherman just turned 29 — and the upcoming draft is loaded with talent in the secondary.

Schneider said there has been clear communication with Sherman about what is going on, saying the trade rumours haven't

Seahawks' All-Pro cornerback Richard Sherman just turned 29.

GETTY IMAGES FILE



been a secret and they're not going to lie about what is happening.

"It's going to be all laid out, and like I said, that doesn't happen everywhere," Schneider said. "We have open lines of communication between our coaching staff and our player personnel staff. It goes through player development, it goes through our sports science group. There's a lot going on there."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### MASTERS

## Johnson ailing after tumble down stairs

Masters favourite Dustin Johnson took a serious fall on a staircase Wednesday and injured his lower back, and his manager said it was uncertain whether the world's No. 1 golfer would be able to play.

It was a stunning development on an otherwise quiet day at Augusta National, where the course was shut down at 1:30 p.m. because of storms.

The real calamity struck a few hours later.

David Winkle, his manager at Hambric Sports, said Johnson fell on the stairs at the home he is renting in Augusta.

"He landed very hard on his lower back and is now resting, although quite uncomfortably," Winkle said in an email.

"He has been advised to remain immobile and begin a regiment of anti-inflammatory medication and icing, with the hope of being able to play tomorrow."

What might help Johnson is that he is in the last group for the opening round, scheduled to tee off at 2:03 p.m. with two-time Masters champion Bubba Watson and PGA champion Jimmy Walker.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### IN BRIEF

#### Westbrook just misses record-setting triple-double

Russell Westbrook fell a rebound short of a historic triple-double, but he scored 45 points, including a late three-pointer that helped seal the Oklahoma City Thunder's 103-100 victory over the Memphis Grizzlies on Wednesday.

Westbrook had 10 assists and nine rebounds, leaving him tied with Oscar Robertson's record for triple-doubles in a season with 41.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### Bundy overpowers Blue Jays in Orioles' victory

Dylan Bundy struck out eight over seven impressive innings, and the Baltimore Orioles used home runs by Adam Jones and Chris Davis to beat the Toronto Blue Jays 3-1 Wednesday night.

Making his 15th career start, Bundy (1-0) allowed one run and four hits. The 2011 first-round draft pick did not issue a walk and retired 14 of the last 15 batters he faced.

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### + BEAST MODE

#### Lynch pays Raiders a visit

Retired running back Marshawn Lynch visited the Oakland Raiders on Wednesday as he decides whether to come back to the NFL and the team decides whether it wants to acquire the hometown favourite.

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

# Hearty Carrot & Chickpea Stew



PHOTO: NANA VISNIE

**Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh**  
For Metro Canada

This fragrant, hearty stew makes more than enough for dinner, so you can pack leftovers for a tasty lunch tomorrow.

**Ready in 1 hour 5 minutes**

Prep time: 5 minutes

Cook time: 1 hour

Serves 6

**Ingredients**

- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 Tbsp minced ginger
- Tbsp olive oil
- 3 cups carrots, chopped in 1/4 inch rounds
- 1/2 tsp turmeric
- 3/4 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp chili powder
- 1 red pepper chopped
- 1/2 zucchini chopped
- 6 or 8 mushrooms chopped
- 2 cups of canned chick-

- peas, drained
- 1 cup chicken or vegetable stock

**Directions**

1. Sauté the onion, garlic and ginger in the olive oil until they're soft but not browned.

2. Add the carrots and the spices and a splash of stock to stop it from sticking.

3. Cook for 10 to 15 minutes, stirring occasionally.

4. Add the other vegetables and sauté for a couple of minutes.

5. Add the drained chick-peas and stock and simmer for an hour, stirring regularly.

6. Add salt and pepper to taste. Serve with a dollop of plain yogurt and some fresh cilantro.

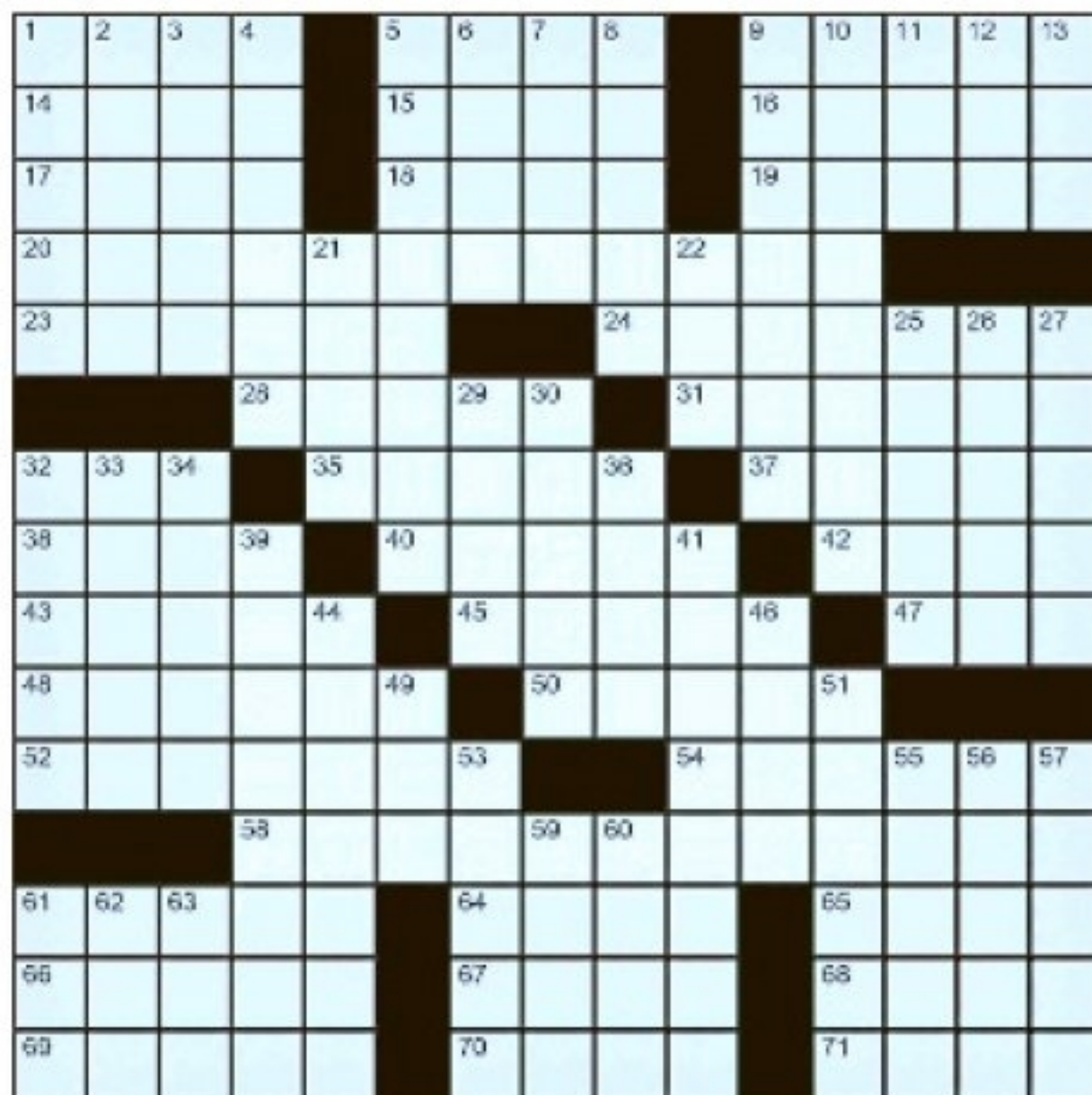
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## CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

**ACROSS**

- "Begone!"
- Cinch
- Treat at afternoon tea
- Family-themed song by Paul Anka
- Outfit for Octavian
- Up \_\_\_ (Until this moment)
- \_\_\_ the Terrible
- Division
- Surplus
- Bruno Gerussi's starring role on "The Beachcombers": 2 wds.
- Row of cookies in a bag
- First \_\_\_ in Western Canada National Historic Site of Canada, it's something to 'gush' about in Alberta
- Parts of doorbell-sounding duos
- Particularly-pitiless person
- Diamond official, for short
- Look after the fire's logs
- Work like Rosie did in World War II
- Heathcliff's heathered haunt
- Drink the water, as a puppy
- Cancelled
- Tim Hortons \_\_\_ (Curling championship)
- Carnivals
- Hankering
- Rotten
- News reporter's coup
- Leeward Islands country, \_\_\_ and Barbuda



- Pieces in the Phantom of the Opera's wardrobe
- American inventor (b.1847 - d.1931) whose father was Canadian: 2 wds.
- Noise a tomato makes when falling onto the kitchen floor

- 'Chew' suffix (Like a stick of gum)
- "My king."
- On \_\_\_ (How some sandwiches are served)
- Footnote abbr.
- River on the Poland/Germany border
- \_\_\_-turvy

- Meshworks
- Organized

**DOWN**

- Revolves
- Quibble
- Speedily
- What the turned-out-to-not-be-a-block-

- buster-movie did
- University attendees
- Reason for a "Tsk, tsk." utterance
- Opposin'
- Flagstones-created retreat
- Thief
- Rowing team

- helmsperson
- Windsor, \_\_\_
- \_\_\_easter
- Hawaii's \_\_\_ Beach
- Hertz competitor
- Shadowy
- Diplomatic representative
- Vassal
- Disclosed: 2 wds.
- Fairway game
- Arctic seabirds
- Total eclipse phenomenon
- "Joanie Loves Chachi" star Erin
- Gist of a speech
- Mr. Clapton
- Piano performances
- Takeaways from sales
- Justifiedly
- Hoped-for-word-in-bold on a real estate sign
- Couplet
- "Every Rose Has Its Thorn" band
- At full force, poetically
- "All kidding \_\_\_"
- Seoul, South \_\_\_
- Viking dog in the funny pages
- Superior at a French monastery
- Skirt feature
- Was in session
- \_\_\_ rata
- Prune

## IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

**Aries** March 21 - April 20  
You are pumped to explore social situations, playful times with children, the arts and sporting events today. You want to have fun, and you're ready for anything!

**Taurus** April 21 - May 21  
Family discussions will be lively, inventive and original today. Listen to what other people bring to the table. Surprise company might drop by — stock the fridge.

**Gemini** May 22 - June 21  
You're full of inventive, genius-like ideas today. This is why conversations with others will be lively and stimulating! Enjoy and learn whatever you can.

**Cancer** June 22 - July 23  
Trust your moneymaking ideas, because you are capable of seeing new ways of doing things simply because you can think outside the box. Sometimes, that's all it takes.

**Leo** July 24 - Aug. 23  
For most of this day, the Moon is in your sign, dancing with wild and wacky Uranus. This helps you to be inventive and spontaneous. Just go with the flow!

**Virgo** Aug. 24 - Sept. 23  
You might be privately excited about something today, because you see new ways of doing things. The trick is, will others agree with you? Why not find out?

**Libra** Sept. 24 - Oct. 23  
You might meet a real character today. This also is a good day to hang out with friends and explore fresh activities. Don't be afraid to take a chance on something new.

**Scorpio** Oct. 24 - Nov. 22  
People admire you today. They see you as someone who is a leader and who is full of innovative ideas. Likewise, your boss or parent also might have a new way of looking at things.

**Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21  
Travel plans suddenly might fall in your lap today. Alternatively, scheduled travel might be canceled or delayed. Anything can happen.

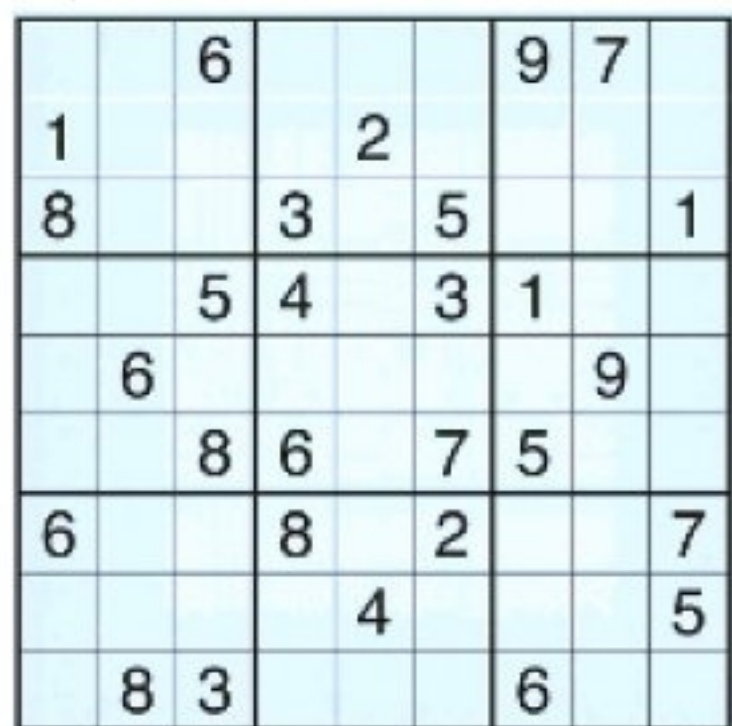
**Capricorn** Dec. 22 - Jan. 20  
Check your bank account and anything to do with shared property, because a few surprises await you today. Make sure you know what's going on.

**Aquarius** Jan. 21 - Feb. 19  
A friend or partner might surprise you today by suggesting something out of the blue. Stay light on your feet so that you can play ball.

**Pisces** Feb. 20 - March 20  
This is a good day to introduce reform and improvements to your job or possibly to your health. That's because you are full of original, inventive ideas. Trust your thinking process.

## CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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